This is the normal television graphics technique when discussing any region in the world. BBC stated that it was their normal practice to avoid highlighting the region on the map when Kashmir was not at the centre of the days story. In this case, the story was about the Lahore bomb blast. It was further stated that where the map showed Pakistan and India, a line on the map shows the Line of Control and the borders of Kashmir.

Membership of GSETT

450 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) since when India has been a part of an independent multilateral initiative called "Group of Scientific Experts Technology Testing" which monitors the seismic technologies of the Committee on Disarmament,

(b) the effect it is likely to have on GSETT membership due to non-endorsement of CTBT by India,

(c) whether according to any treaty all the GSETT members become automatic partners of the International Monitoring System and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I K GUJRAL): (a) India has participated in the Group of Scientific Experts' Technology Testing (GSETT) since 1976.

(b) The GSETT is a preparatory multilateral initiative launched by member states of the Conference on Disarmament to prepare the ground for verifying a CTBT.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pak's Armaments

451 DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Pakistan has strengthened and increased its armaments and striking power in the last three years and

(b) the measures that have been taken/proposed to be taken to counter the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I K GUJRAL): (a) Government are aware of Pakistan's acquisition of sophisticated arms and technology from various sources. Pakistan's acquisition of such weapons, far beyond its legitimate needs, is not conducive to peace and security in the region.

(b) Government constantly monitors all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

[Translation]

Royalty on Coal

452 SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount of royalty on coal payable to Bihar stands outstanding against the Union Government,

(b) if so, the amount thereof, till date;

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government for its payment, and

(d) the difficulties being faced by the Government in its payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) No payment of royalty on coal to the Government of Bihar is outstanding as on 31.3.1996. The royalty is levied on coal consumers in the coal sale bills and the money is remitted to the State Government on receipt of payment. For coal supplies from April to May 1996, the royalty amounting to Rs. 7.69 crores is to be remitted to the State Government by the concerned coal companies and will be done in the normal course. There is no difficulty in the coal companies making payments to the State Government and the amounts are remitted by the coal companies regularly.

[English]

Damodar Flood Control Scheme

453 SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether revised lower Damodar Flood Control Scheme submitted by Government of West Bengal has been approved, and

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Union Govt. have not received any scheme titled "Lower Damodar Flood Control Scheme (revised)" from Govt. of West Bengal. However a scheme, namely "Lower Damodar drainage scheme" costing Rs. 1440.00 lakh was approved by the Union Govt. during June 1989. The scheme after implementation will mitigate the problems of floods & drainage in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah & Burdwan.